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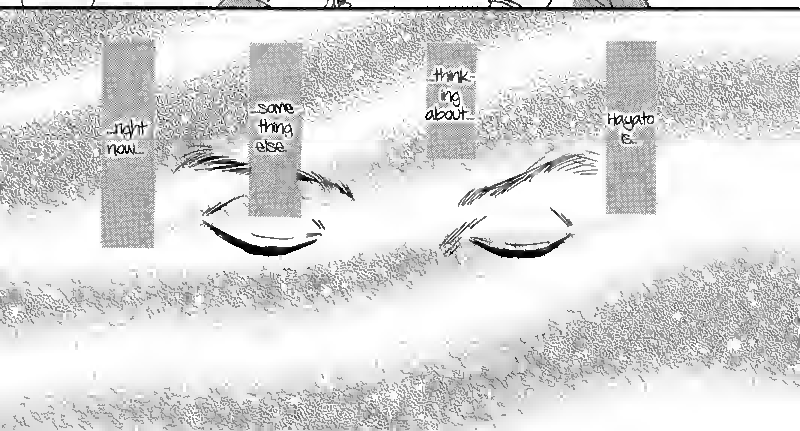
KANO HITOYA TSUKI

Chapter 2

Honoka Hagami
Sixteen years old sophomore in high school
Hobby: psychological analysis
Talent: getting away with things by smiling

HINO-CHAN BROUGHT A GUY WITH HER TODAY
AND HE WAS PRETTY CUTE, TOO, AND—
I... SEE
UH HUH...
chatter chatter
OH, DID I TELL YOU ALREADY? HINO-CHAN'S MY BIG SIS
nee nee nee
REAL-LY...

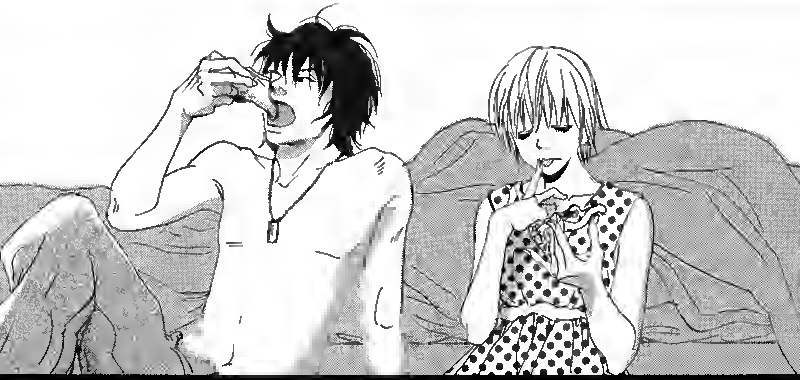
DOES YOUR SISTER HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
AI YA.
LIKE, SHE BROUGHT HER GUY HOME, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME—
OH..


...right now...
some-thing else
think-ing about...
Hayato is...

SMILES
UM, SORRY, I MEAN...
"WHEREVER" IS FINE
HUH? WHAT THE —
WELL, WHAT NOW?
YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE?
...thinking about his objective.
UM... DON'T CARE WHATEVER
Hayato is a freshmen in an all-boys' school
THEN... MY HOUSE
His house is brand new, roomy, classy, and...
the AC's on, and there's a soundproof basement
On top of that, there's rarely anyone home.
Ideal, isn't it?

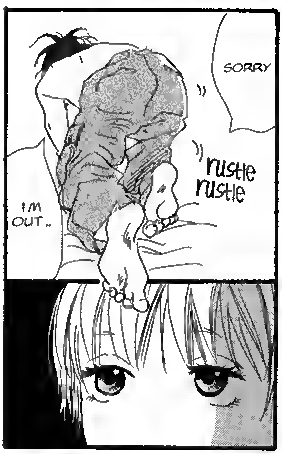
It's been a month since we've started dating.
Ah Ahhhhhmm Mu Mu Mu Mu Cha Cha Cha!
and like a monkey
we do it over and over
WHAT'S UP?
AH, NOT RIGHT NOW
WHA— NO WAY, REALLY?
AH HA HA HA!
UH HUH
OHHH, OK SEE YA
beep
beep
I went all the way back to my house to change clothes...
YUP
WHAT TIME IS IT?
DUNNO ABOUT SEVEN?
YOU HUNGRY?
SEVEN TWENTY-THREE
LET'S ORDER PIZZA

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
19:49
YOU, E-MAIL HONOKA'S CELL PHONE! SAY "DAD'S ON HIS DEATHBED"
YEAH, RIGHT.
MOM, WHERE'S THE PEPPER SEASONING?
IT'S THERE, ISN'T IT?
EAT MORE OF THEM RAKKYO
DARN IT! WHO IN THE WORLD DARES TO TAKE MY DAUGHTER?!
AHHH! WHO ATE ALL THE FUTA"?!
WATER
DEAR, WATER.
*Rakkyo: Pickled Japanese shallot.
**Futa: Operculum.



but...
I'm not interested in someone else's man.
"I'm Fukamachi."
He was a cutie.

A guy that likes Hino-chan hitting on me is so—
he wouldn't be interested in me.
In the first place,

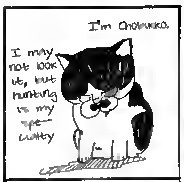

SORRY
rustle rustle
I'm OUT..

...
Silly me. What am I thinking?
TSK!
HEY, HAYA..

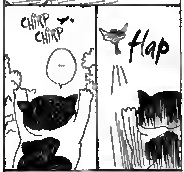
..very happy..
..now..
Hayato is..
Not even trying to understand my complicated thoughts.
zzz
zzz
The male species is simple.
Eat.'
'Sleep.'
Sex."
'Play.'
They are made of these four components.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Hun?

WERE YOU SLEEP-ING?
YEP... BECAUSE YOU WERE SLEEPING
I'M GOING TO MY FRIEND'S HOUSE
...
...
SEE YA
BYE-BYE

...full of anxiety...
...now...
I'm...
buzz
buzz
buuuuzzz
There, good, good boy.
There, good boy.
HEY.
Note: "Miiin" is the sound of a cicada.

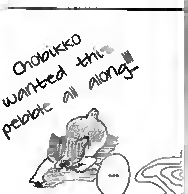

I'm Chopikko.
I may not look it, but humming is my specialty

CHIRP
CHIRP


CHIRP
CHIRP
flap

Wh
am

This red is my jersey for today


Chopikko wanted this pedal all along!
...

WEL-COME HOME, HONOKA-CHAN!
WEL COME BACK.
WHO IS IN UNI-FORM ...!
HELLO_ WHAT'S UP?
Heh Heh Heh
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. HIGH SCHOOL'S NOT OUT FOR SUMMER YET_
?
RUSTLE

SUMMER BREAK!

GHOST HUNTING ~~BUS~~ VAN GROUP TOUR!

ONE WAY

Putting aside the fact that it sounds lame,
Hino-chan's (potential) boyfriend will be like a cool breeze for us!
I WON'T GO.
GHOST HUNTING TOUR GROUP TOUR

What's lacking between Hayato and I is this element of thrill!

purr
purr
purr
purr
...
purr
purr
MEETING YOUR FAMILY AND ALL IS SUCH A DRAG!
...now ...
Aki is...
...feel-ing pity for me...
Why?
...
t-ok

Why is it Hayato?
IS HONOKA OUT AGAIN?!
Pop Pop
SHE'S WITH AKI..
HM?
...AND WITH HIRONO AND THAT BOY FROM THE OTHER DAY
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO HUNT GHOSTS AT AKI'S APARTMENT..
AH..
WHA..
APART-MENTS ARE PRONE TO BECOME A BASE FOR DELIN-QUENTS..
SO TRUE..
STOP IT YOU TWO..
Damn it

I should finish this party in good time and go home.
I can take a cab.
YOU SHOULD'VE BROUGHT YOUR BOY FRIEND
IT'S NO USE HE'S A FRAIDY-CAT
GUYS ARE BAD WITH THESE THINGS
REAL-LY?
Bad vibe...!
Bad vibe...!
SHRINK

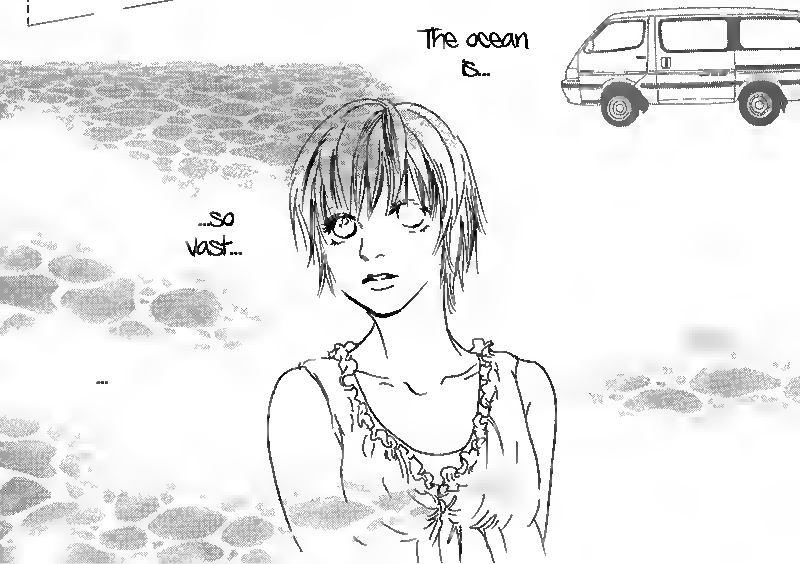
I PREFER IT WITH TUNA AND MAYONNAISE... AND ALSO BEEF?
I THINK RICE BALLS WITH PAN-FRIED COD ROWS ARE AWESOME.
She seems calm enough, but she's preoccupied with herself.
SEAWEED
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG BRO?
THE THICKER, THE YUMMIER
SURPRISINGLY, YOU LIKE HEAVY FOODS
giggle
giggle
Wah!
THAT'S OLD SCHOOL THERE
Lucky that she plays at her own pace.
SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL FUKAMACHI KUN?
What am I doing here?
...is thinking.
...now...
Hina-chan...
giggle
giggle
...

WHAT'S HIRONO LIKE IN SCHOOL?
WELL,
SHE STANDS APART FROM EVERYONE ELSE
SHE ALSO HAS KEEN EYES FOR OBSERVING PEOPLE AND..
...DOESN'T CHITTER CHATTER
That's just like me, huh?
HINO-CHAN'S INTRO-VERTED, SO IT'S HARD..
Oh, I'M out
HEY THERE
I SEE YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO THOSE ASPECTS..
CHEER ME ON!
GO GET HER! ♡
CHEER ME ON, BIG BRO!
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WALK
KOMARU HASN'T BEEN TAKEN OUT YET TODAY
OH! I'LL GO, TOO!
WHAT? RIGHT NOW?
LET'S GO, KOMARU!
SHUT

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE SHE'S EMBARRASSED.
JUST LIKE A KID...
KIDS...
CAN'T PREACH KIDS..
SHUT UP!
AH
YOU'RE BORED, RIGHT?
YOU ALWAYS ACT HYPER WHEN YOU'RE BORED
Umm...
HUH?
Big brother...
Ha ha...
NOT ENOUGH DRINKS HERE...

BANG
"We went to the grocery. Be nice, okay?"
AKI IS...
...basically the mean type...
DON'T GUYS USUALLY HOLD THE CAR VET...
SO, STEAL HIM.
HUH?
USE FUKA-MACHI AS A STIMU-LANT...
YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S COLD TO YOU, RIGHT?
"FUKA-MACHI."
smirk
startle
B...
Big brother...

HIRONO JUST...
...would never...
!!
THREW HER BACK
...wish that.


The ocean is...
...so vast...
...

THE BEACH?
UMM, WELL, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE SOMETIME.
MAN, IT'S FREAKING HOT.
I FEEL SLACK.
ANYWAY, COME HERE
OK?

Hayato...

...had a tan.

He hung out with a bunch of his friends.

THAT... FRIEND'
...MIGHT HAVE A BEARD OR SOME THING, HUH?
Dad now... ...is think- ing, 'I messed up.'
GOOD NIGHT
AH, HONO- CHAN,
HONO- CHAN
When I see my father, I feel like I've been tainted, and...
... I hate it.'
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO SOME- WHERE!
THE WEEK AFTER NEXT, I GET SUMMER BREAK, SO...
THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO, OK?
GOOD NIGHT.

ASSORTED
ICE CREAM!
YES, SUE-CHAN!
YOU HAVE CARAMEL?
I WANT STRAWBERRY
wobble
wobble
HE'S BECOMING TAME TOWARD THE SENIORS...
ISN'T IT MORE LIKE "TAMING THEM?
HINO-CHAN, YOU'RE SO LOVED

...AND "BEING CARED FOR"
"LOVED..."
FEEL ING
STOP IT...
AWE-SOME
BEING LOVED IS...
WHY?
AND KNOWING THAT...
irritated
"So, steal him."

IT WAS YUMMY,
THE ICE CREAM FROM BEFORE
Big brother,
I...
...wouldn't...
do something so bad
HEY, YOU'RE HERE AGAIN.
cough cough
WHAT DID YOU BRING THIS TIME?
YOU CAME EMPTY-HANDED?!
End of conversation.
WHERE'S HIRONO? ...
SHE WENT TO WALK KOMA-RU
OH I SEE
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT? WE HAVE WATER-MELON

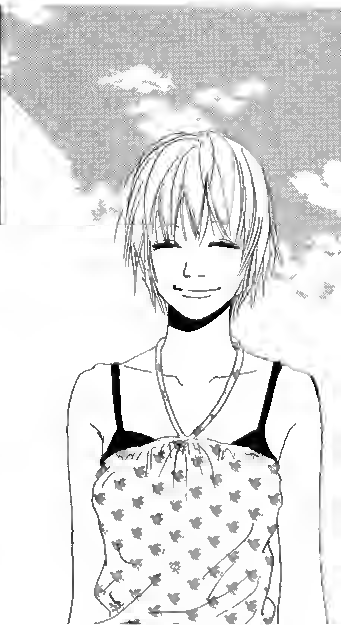
Yay!
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY ROOM?
NO WAY.
YOU MIGHT PUSH ME DOWN.
Woof
Woof
WOOF
WOO
HEY, FUKA-MACHI.
YOU RE HERE G, AIN.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

Hey...!
Good boy
Good boy
Good boy
Good boy
Hey... Komatta Komaru
*Translator's note
Komatta/Komaru means
"to be troubled"
WHAM
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY SISTER?!
flinch

...
Hino-chan is...
...kind of dim-witted... like...
...uhm...
...
...
EH?!
...
YOU'RE LOVED,
HONOKA-CHAN

YO.

YESTERDAY, MATSUDA LEFT A BUNCH OF VIDEOS.
AH, REALLY? LIKE WHAT?
UMM. LIKE YOUR ADORNED COMBAT SPORTS...
NO WAY ...!
AND THERE'RE MOVIES, TOO.



HA
HA

UH...
WHA-
...
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?!
...

A SKIRT
IT'S A DRESS..
SAME THING
WHAT PATTERN?

DO YOU...
REMEMBER WHAT I WAS WEARING...?

ROCKETS..
RO...
..
..AND BEFORE THAT?
HUH?
FROM THE TIME BE FORE?
WHAT IS..?
WHAT ABOUT THE TIME BEFORE THAT?
..
DO..
DOING IT..
.. IS THE ONLY THING YOU NEED FROM ME...
FOR ..
..YOUR..
..D-DESIRE, !.

I'M JUST FOR SATISFY-ING IT.
...
HA...

YOU'RE CUTE.
Hun?
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE
HAYATO ..?
HAYA ...
Shake Shake
THAT'S ...
...
IT'S A WASTE TO..
LIKE...
AND I-I DON'T WANT TO SHOW YOU TO OTHER GUYS!

but my tears stopped.
It's so stupid.
SNIFF
AND.. THOUGH,
I LIKE THE INSIDE OF YOU.
...BETTER THAN YOUR CLOTHES...
HEY, ISN'T THAT NORMAL ?!
gets up
...
Surprisingly...
Hayato Maybe...

...is faint-hearted?
HEY.
WERE YOU REALLY...
AFRAID OF THE GHOST?
Hayato ...
prob-ably...
...really ...
...loves me.

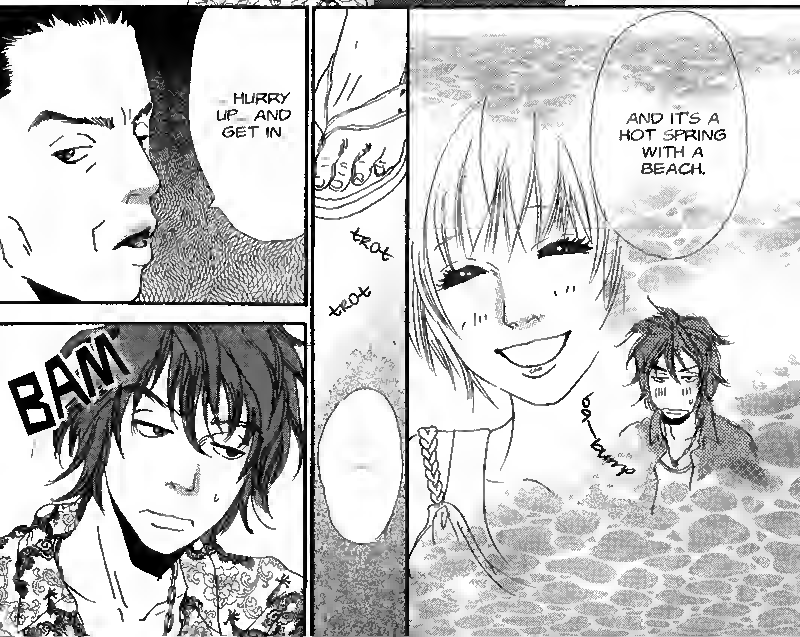
squeeze

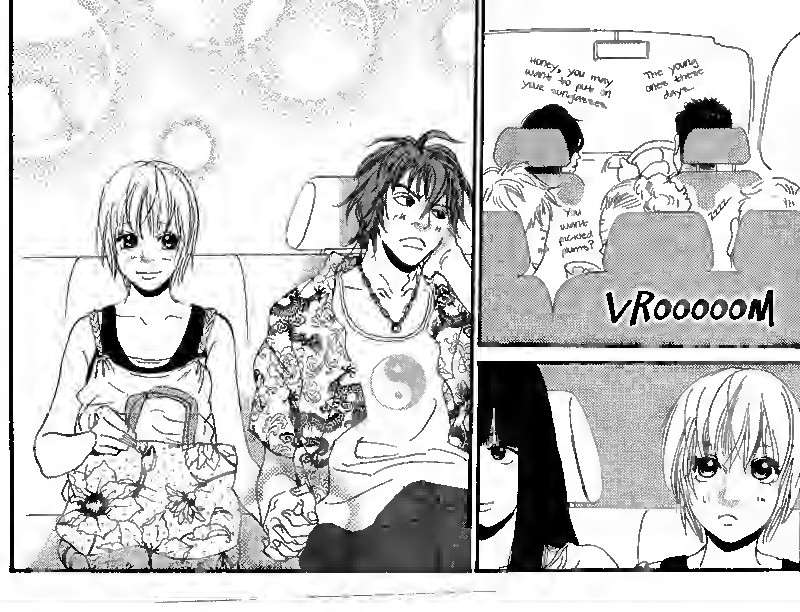
WITH YOU, HAYATO
I WANNA GO EVERY-WHERE
THERE'S A BUNCH OF THINGS...
...I WANNA DO TO-GETHER

WE'RE TAKING COUNT...!
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
.. SIX.
SEVEN
...

"HACHI"
HEY, WE'RE LEAVING...!
Come on, get up!
WHY... RIGHT AWAY,
DO WE GO ON A FAMILY TRIP?!
WELL, ONE PERSON ENDED UP NOT COMING, AND...
WE HAVE RESERVATIONS.
SEE, OUR CAR HOLDS EIGHT, ANYWAY

*Translation note: Hachi means "eight," but it is also a name of very loyal "dog" in Japan




honey, you may want to put on your sunglasses.
The young ones these days...
You want privacy mama?
zzz
VRoooooM

raue
puuu
puuu
raue
raue
raue
HELLO? AKI?
IT'S HIRONO.
WERE YOU SLEEP-ING?

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
YEAH
REALLY? YOU BETTER HAVE. THE DRIED ONES, OKAY?
YEAH, YEAH
DID YOU GIVE KOMARU HIS FOOD?
NO...
IF IT'S REALLY BAD, CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE.
I... CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE NERVES OF YOU PEOPLE WHO WOULD LEAVE AN ILL PER-
HUFF
HUFF
AKI-CHAN? IT'S HONOKA!
THE MOON'S REALLY PRETTY. CAN YOU SEE IT?

BITE
BITE
BITE
RUSTLE
HOW SHOULD I KNOW
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH